

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 L-03 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /086 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 3926

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

DIA

US MISION EC BRUSSELS 8200

US MISSION NATO 3836

OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL NAPLES

AMCONSUL MILAN

AMCONSUL GENOA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, EFIN, IT IMF

SUBJECT; LABOR: METAL WORKERS CONVENE TO ATTACK RECENT AGREEMENT ON
COST OF LABOR

REF: ROME 5359

1. SUMMARY. A LARGE CONFERENCE WAS CONDUCTED RECENTLY IN MILAN BY
DELEGATES REPRESENTING VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE METAL TRADES, IN
DEFIANCE OF THE AGREEMENTS RECENTLY MADE BY TOP LABOR LEADERSHIP TO
CURTAIL LABOR COSTS. THE ASSEMBLY, LARGELY OF FIM-CISL IN-
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SPIRATION, EMBARRASSED CISL NATIONAL SSECRETARY CARNITI WHO
ASPIRES TO THE TOP CISL POST, LEADING HIM TO CRITICIZE THE
INITIATIVE. THE CONFERENCE ALSO DREW FIRE PRIMARILY FROM THE CGIL.
IN THE END, EFFORTS TO PUSH THE ASSEMBLY INTO A MORE DEFIANT POSITION

WERE VOTED DOWN. END SUMMARY.

2. ON APRIL 6 SOME 2560 DELEGATES ASSEMBLED IN MILAN TO EXPRESS THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE RECENT ACCORD FOR THE REDUCTION OF LABOR COSTS REACHED BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CONFEDERTION CGIL-CISL-UIL

(CCU). THE DELEGATES WERE PRIMARILY FROM FACTORY COUNCILS OF NORTH ITALY, ALTHOUGH ALL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY WERE REPRESENTED. THE MOVING

FORCE BEHIND THE MEETING WAS THE LOMBARDY LEADERSHIP OF CISL'S METAL WORKERS UNION (FIM).

3. THE CONFERENCE TOOK PLACE IN CLEAR DEFIANCE OF THE CCU LEADERSHIP. THE BROADEST CONSENSUS WAS OBTAINED IN CRITICIZING THE "HIGH-HANDED" AND "ANTI-DEMOCRATIC" MANNER IN WHICH THE CCU HAD AGREED TO CERTAIN CURTAILMENTS IN THE WAGE ESCALATION SYSTEM. A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING "GENERAL DISAPPROVAL" OF THE TOP LEADERS AND CALLING FOR "A RESUMPTION OF STRUGGLE FROM THE FACTORY LEVEL ON UP" WAS PASSED WITH AN OVERSHELMING MAJORITY. AN ADDITIONAL RESOLUTION, CALLING FOR A GENERAL METAL WORKERS STRIKE, WAS VOTED DOWN.

4. THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED CGIL CONDEMNED THE "DEVIATIONIST" ASSEMBLY IN THE STRONGEST TERMS AND THREATENED WITH EXPULSION ANY CGIL PARTICIPANTS. CISL LEADERS KEPT LARGELY QUIET ABOUT THE EVENT. THE UIL WAS SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN, CRITICIZING BOTH THE ASSEMBLY AND THE RECENT ACCORDS.

5. COMMENT: THE ACT OF DEFIANCE WHICH THE ASSEMBLY REPRESENTS IS ANALAGOUS TO THE ACTIONS, TAKEN A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO BY EX-CISL MINORITY LEADER VITO SCALIA, WHICH LED TO SCALIA'S SUSPENSION FROM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CISL. IT IS DOUBTFUL, HOWEVER, THAT THE SAME DISCIPLINE WILL BE METED OUT TO THE MILAN PARTICIPANTS. ACCORDING TO CISL SOURCES, THE MILAN MEETING GREATLY EMBARRASSED CISL NATIONAL SECRETARY CARNITI SINCE IT IS ESSENTIALLY HIS CONSTITUENCY WHICH ORGANIZED THE AFFAIR. CARNITI, WHO HAS DESIGNS ON ASSUMING THE CISL LEADERSHIP, WAS CONSTRAINED TO MAKE A PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE ASSEMBLY. AFTER AFFIRMING THE RIGHT FOR VARYING OPINIONS WITHIN THE LABOR MOVEMENT, HE CALLED THE INITIATIVE "MISDIRECTED" AND WELL CALCULATED TO "DIVIDE THE WORKERS AND BECOME A VEHICLE FOR THE FRAGMENTATION OF THE WORKING CLASS." THE FACT IS THAT THE MILAN INITIATIVE WAS POPULAR WITH MANY WORKERS, AND IS INDICATIVE OF THE DIFFICULTIES FACED BY TOP LABOR LEADERSHIP IN SEEKING TO ACT RESPONSIBLY IN HELPING TO SOLVE THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 08-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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